



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	2/2/2009	Interpretation	08-042
Topic	Requirement for Automatic Fire Alarms in Schools		
Code Section(s)	2007 California Fire Code Section 907.2.3		
Requested by	Terry Szalai, P.E. Technical/Quality Advisor Suite 16 Electrical Engineering 463 Aviation Blvd., #200 Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (707) 522-8175		

Initial statement of reasons for proposed Building Standards of the Office of the State Fire (SFM) regarding the adoption by reference of the 2006 Edition of the International Fire Code with amendments into the 2007 California Fire Code , California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 9: 907.2.3 (305.9.1, 2001 CBC)

SFM is proposing this amendment requiring an automatic fire detection system in addition to the manual fire alarm. This amendment is predicated upon by the CA Education Code, Section 17074.50 which requires an automatic fire detection and alarm system. This amendment will provide consistency in fire and life safety requirements for new construction of schools and modernization projects throughout the State of California.”

- 1. Is it the intent of CFC 907.2.3 to require automatic fire alarm systems in projects not funded under the Leroy Greene Act (Chapter 12.5) and not subject to the requirements of CA Education Code 17074.50?**

Yes. It was the intent of the State Fire Marshal to require an automatic fire detection alarm system in all new schools both public and private. At least one manual pull box shall be provided to manually initiate a fire alarm and for fire drills and testing. Although the Greene Oaks Act pertained to and

amended the Education Code as it relates to public school funding. California Fire Code Section 907.2.3 applies to all schools and/or building or portions of buildings used for educational purposes. Health and Safety Code Section 13143 states in part that the State Fire Marshal prepare and adopt regulations establishing minimum requirements for the prevention of fire and for the protection of life and property against fire and panic in any building or structure used or intended for use as a "school".